



CRYSTAL LAKE (Orleans)

General Information:

This rather acidic, 36-acre natural kettlehole pond has a maximum depth of 44 feet and an average depth of 21 feet. The shoreline is primarily residential. The lake is located about one mile south of Orleans Center, just east of Route 28. To get there from the Sagamore Bridge, take Route 6 east to Exit 12; right onto Route 6A; right onto Route 28.

There are two access points provided by the town. A steep paved ramp off of Route 28 about 3/10 of a mile south of Eldridge Road provides access in the northwest section. The southeast access can be reached by traveling further down Route 28 and taking a left onto Monument Road. The access area is off Monument Road. This access consists of a gravel parking lot that can accommodate approximately eight cars, and a path for foot access or to carry canoes. The shoreline is easily wadeable.

The lake was reclaimed in 1954. An estimated 2,248 pounds of fish — primarily yellow perch and American eels — were recovered at that time. The pond was reclaimed again in 1962.

Fish Populations:

Although no recent surveys have been made, Crystal Lake is known to support populations of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, banded killifish and American eel. The pond was stocked with adult smallmouth bass in 1979 and 1981 to increase the brood stock of bass in the pond.

Fishing:

Although there are token numbers of bass remaining in this increasingly acidic pond, trout are really the name of the game. It is stocked with trout annually in both the spring and fall. Due to decreasing alkalinity and pH, trout stocking has concentrated on the more acid tolerant brook and brown trout, instead of the acid sensitive rainbow trout.

Brookies are suckers for worms or doughbaits fished on or near the bottom, while brown trout are more likely to be taken on hardware and shiners. Streamers, flies and small spinners are deadly on both species and may be trolled or cast. In summer, look for the trout at depths of 19 to 24 feet.

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